

KARACHI

Sunset 05:51pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:40am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 18°C
Maximum 35°C
Humidity 72%
Outlook Sunny

METRO

South



International cricket returns to Faisalabad with Pakistan-SA ODIs

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ARTIST Mani Chao and students of Karachi's School of Visual & Performing Arts perform at the Arts Council as part of the World Culture Festival.—Shakil Adil / White Star

Two more dengue patients die: health dept

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The provincial health department declared on Monday the deaths of two more patients from dengue fever, raising the official tally to eight in the province.

According to data from the provincial health department, the deceased — a 60-year-old woman and a 27-year-old man — were residents of Hyderabad and Tando Allahyar, respectively.

The female patient died at Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad, on Nov 3 (Monday), where she had been admitted two days earlier. The male patient, however, died on Sunday (Nov 2) after being admitted to Bone Care Hospital, Hyderabad, the same day.

The official data showed that out of the 5,978 patients tested for the mosquito-borne viral infection "during the last 24 hours" in the province, a total of 1,589 people tested positive.

In Karachi Division, 4,444 tests were carried out, with 876 positive cases confirmed. In Hyderabad Division, 1,534 tests were conducted and 713 cases reported positive.

Health Secretary Rehan Baloch said that the government had allocated 256 hospital beds in Karachi, 155 beds in Hyderabad, and 565 beds across the rest of Sindh, making a total of 976 dedicated beds at government facilities, he added.

Centre-Sindh row over suspension of Green Line extension 'resolved'

Ahsan Iqbal says work on second phase to resume soon

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: After weeks of tensions over City Mayor Murtaza Wahab's order to suspend the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Green Line extension work and Sindh government's call for the Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company Limited (PIDCL) to limit its role, the provincial government and Islamabad on Monday resolved the dispute, describing it merely as a "coordination issue".

This was affirmed by key members of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led federal government and members of the PPP cabinet in Sindh, who said that all issues between the two sides had been fully resolved and that the positive outcome of this understanding would become evident soon.

As a result, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan

Iqbal announced that the second phase of the transport project would be completed within a year, stressing that the city's heritage and existing infrastructure must be protected during construction.

Mr Iqbal and Sindh Minister for Irrigation and Planning & Development Jam Khan Shoro, visited the project site, where they were briefed on concerns raised by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) regarding no-objection certificates (NOCs), service road diversions, relocation of a 12-inch water line and drainage issues.

Accompanied by Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leaders Syed Amin-ul-Haque and Jawed Hanif, Mr Iqbal said the federal government was keen to complete the Green Line project at the earliest so that Karachiites could receive maximum transport relief.

Talking to the reporters, the federal minister downplayed recent tensions between the Sindh government and Islamabad over the Green Line extension, saying the matter had been nothing more than a "coordination issue".

He expressed confidence that work on the

project would resume soon, adding that the coalition government made all decisions through mutual understanding and consultation.

"There is a special package for Karachi and Hyderabad announced by the prime minister," he said.

He explained that PIDCL is the successor organisation to the now-defunct Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD) and operates across the country, not just in Sindh.

"When PWD was dissolved, PIDCL was formed to handle projects funded by the federal government throughout Pakistan," he noted. "There is no issue between us [the federal and Sindh governments]. Sometimes only minor matters arise. The recent situation with the KMC was merely a coordination issue," he reiterated.

Assurance of cooperation from CM

The minister added that he had met Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah earlier in the day, who had assured him that provincial

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Rare pod of endangered Arabian humpback whales spotted off Gwadar

WWF-P adviser says the occurrence is a sign of recovery for the once-declining species

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A rare large pod, comprising more than six endangered Arabian humpback whales, identified by the shape of their spouts and distinctive diving patterns, was sighted on

Sunday night off Gwadar, the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) said on Monday.

Previously, the organisation had reported several sightings of this species from Pakistani waters; however, most of those involved only one or two whales.

According to experts, a group of fishermen led by Nakhuda Amir Dad Karim spotted more than six Arabian humpback whales migrating from west to east in the offshore waters about 11 nautical miles south of Gwadar headland.

Muhammad Moazzam Khan,

technical adviser of WWF-Pakistan, considered the occurrence of such a large pod along the Pakistan coast an indicator of recovery for the species' once-declining population.

"Whaling operations in the Arabian Sea, including off Pakistan's coast from 1963 to 1967, by Soviet fleets used to target humpback whales. They are believed to have severely impacted the population of the Arabian Sea humpback whales, which have been struggling to recover since then," he said.

Senior Director Biodiversity WWF-Pakistan Rab Nawaz said

that the recent sightings of the large pod of whales, along with frequent reports of Bryde's and blue whales along the Sindh and Balochistan coasts, reflected the high productivity of Pakistan's Arabian Sea.

"These observations highlight the richness of our marine ecosystems and the importance of continued monitoring. I deeply appreciate the fishermen's community, who remain vigilant and regularly report sightings of marine species to the organisation. Their efforts are a remarkable contribution to

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Mega maritime show begins at Expo Centre

KARACHI: The opening ceremony of the second edition of the Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference 2025 (PIMEC-25) was held at the Expo Centre, Karachi here on Monday.

Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistic Services Saleh bin Nasser Al Jasser was the guest of honour, while Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest at the event. Upon their arrival, they were received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and others.

Mr Iqbal formally announced opening of PIMEC 25 and unveiled the commemorative postal stamp, followed by a tour of the expo.

Speaking on the occasion, the federal minister highlighted the immense potential of Pakistan's maritime sector in rejuvenating the national economy.

He appreciated efforts of the Pakistan Navy in promoting awareness among the masses about the significance of blue economy and especially for organising the maritime expo.

The participation of delegations from 44 countries and 178 international and domestic exhibitors at PIMEC-25 reflects the growing global interest in Pakistan's maritime domain.

The four-day event is being organised by the PN under the patronage of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and will continue till Nov 6. —Staff Reporter

Plea against ban on TLP dismissed

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Monday dismissed a petition filed against a federal government notification to proscribe Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).

A two-judge bench, headed by acting Chief Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput, questioned the maintainability of the petition and asked as to why the petitioner did not approach proper forum first.

After a preliminary hearing, the bench dismissed the petition for not being maintainable.

Citing the interior ministry, Sindh chief secretary, provincial home department and others as respondents, TLP activist Rizwan Ahmed Saifi challenged a notification issued by the federal government on Oct 24 and asked the SHC to declare it illegal and unlawful.—Staff Reporter



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